

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of this application, and the indication that claims 2, 14, 19, and 21-25 contain allowable subject matter.

In this amendment, claims 1-32 have been canceled. New claims 33-100 have been added. Support for the features “cross-linking polysaccharides first, then shaping” and ”shaping polysaccharides first, then cross-linking” can be found in at least paragraphs [0067]-[0068] and [0129]-[0130] of the specification, respectively. Additionally, support for the feature “the starting material of hydroxyl-containing polysaccharides” can also be found in at least paragraph [0067] of the specification. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by the amendments submitted herein.

35 U.S.C 112

Claims 7, 15, 20 and 26-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

35 U.S.C 102(b)

Claims 1, 3~13, 15~18 and 30~32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Malson(US 4,963,666). These rejections are also rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

New Claims 33-100

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 33-100 are novel and non-obvious in view of the cited art of record, and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested. In this regard, none of the reference teaches or suggests shaping the cross-linked polysaccharide or using a shaped polysaccharide.

Claim 33 recites “cross-linking the water solution of hydroxyl-containing polysaccharides by adding a poly-functional epoxy compound thereto, thereby forming a solution of cross-linked polysaccharides, and **shaping** the solution of cross-linked polysaccharides into a water-insoluble polysaccharide”. **Claim 68** recites “adding shaped polysaccharides to the pH-adjusted organic solvent/water solution, and cross-linking the **shaped** hydroxyl-containing polysaccharides to form water-insoluble polysaccharides”. Therefore, the unique features of the present invention include either “shaping a cross-linked polysaccharide” (Claim 33) or “adding s shaped polysaccharide into a solution” (Claim 68).

The cited art of record does not teach the shaping of polysaccharides. Indeed, Malson only teaches cross-linking polysaccharides but fails to teach shaping the cross-linked polysaccharide, or using a shaped polysaccharide (see column 2, lines 8~25). Additionally, the starting material of the invention is **hydroxyl-containing** polysaccharides, but Malson teaches preparing the starting material of **carboxy-containing** polysaccharides (see column 2, lines 33~39). Therefore, the Office Action has misconstrued Mei’s teaching.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to disclose all the limitations of new claims 33 and 68. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 33 and 68 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Examiner’s cited reference. Thus, it is believed that independent claims 33 and 68 are in allowable condition under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a).

Insofar as claims 34-67 and 69-100 depend from claims 33 and 68, respectively, it is applicant's belief that these claims are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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